ELECTRONICALLY FILED ON December 23, 2009

Attorney Docket No.: 36671-744.502

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| In re A | application of: |) |
|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| | Kenneth F. Buechler |) Group Art Unit: 1641 |
| Application No.: 10/645,874 | |) Examiner: Lum, Leon Yun Bon |
| Filed: | August 20, 2003 |) Confirmation No.: 8658 |
| For: | METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS FOR MEASURING BIOLOGICALLY ACTIVE NATRIURETIC PEPTIDES AND FOR IMPROVING THEIR THERAPEUTIC POTENTIAL |))))) |

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION AND AMENDMENT

M/S Amendment Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandría, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir/Madam:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed August 7, 2009, and the Advisory Action mailed on November 24, 2009, Applicants respectfully request continued examination and reconsideration of the above-referenced application in view of the following amendments and remarks:

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this response.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this response.